2: Blackman E-5 (1920-1926) 1927
MR13 Fellahin MR13
Upper Egypt

THE FELLĀḤĪN OF UPPER EGYPT

The two ropes attached to the boat by the divers were very long, as well as strong, and one was held by either group of helpers (Fig. 59). First one rope was pulled by the men on one bank, then, after a few turns, the other was tugged from the other side of the canal. This went on regularly for some time, the whole proceeding being well organized by the officer in charge of the district. However, as it turned out, the two groups of people facing one another across the canal belonged to two antagonistic villages, and, before long, stones of considerable size began to fly from one bank to another. The officer, an old friend of mine, rushed up and begged me to take shelter while he settled the matter, but I was far too interested to beat a retreat, as I wanted to see what would happen. He, armed with a stout *kurbāg* (a very powerful leather whip), rushed in among the crowd that had actually started the fray, slashing right and left. By this display of promptitude and courage he put an end to what might have been a serious and bloody fight. Meanwhile, I dodged about trying to get a snapshot of the combat, but the excited crowds, rushing hither and thither, frustrated all my endeavours. Eventually the villagers who started the fight were no longer allowed to assist, and were made to squat in rows at a distance, in dire disgrace They appeared utterly unmoved, and when I spoke to them and

FIG. 57. WEAPONS USED IN BLOOD-FEUDS AND INTER-VILLAGE FIGHTS

7: Riad E-4, 5 (no date) 1960
MR13 Fellahin MR13

Now the plough of Dynastic Egypt was more or less double handled, and if the discoveries in Upper Egypt or Fayum reveal, even through the Greek and the Roman periods, the constance of double handles, there is then no doubt that such a characteristic in the Egyptian plough is obviously very old. Again if we consider another part of the plough, namely the beam, we find that the straight beam figures out in all ancient findings, until curved beam appears suddenly in the Roman period, side by side with the straight beam. This sudden appearance is only confined to Fayum, no evidence known refer to the appearance of the curved beam in Upper Egypt, but it is highly probable that curved beam appeared also in different parts of the Delta. We must notice that the curved beam of Fayum appeared in connection with a double handled plough —a fact which either indicate that that type of beam originated with the double handled principle, or that it originated in association with the single handled plough. In view of the constant appearance of the curved beam with the single handle, not only in contemporaneous Egypt, but also in Southern Palastine, Tripoli [1], Tunisia [2], and in South Arabia [3], we may conclude that the combination of double handles and curved beam of Roman Fayum represent an adjustment of the curved beam incrusion southwards from the Delta. All this discussion means that the roots of the present type V plough are definitly older than prototype of plough type II.

Leser in his studies of the plough has settled down the problem of the curved beam plough. In his steps followed both Winkler and Baumann. Winkler states :

> « Der Krümelpflug weist nun deutlich nach Griechenland und Italien hinüber, dort ist dieser Pflug seit sehr alter Zeit zu Hause. Wenn wir zur Bezeichnung der Griessäule das romanisch Balanga (Latienisch oder italienisch Bilancia) finden, dürfen wir vermuten, dass dieses Wort besonders am Mittelmeerpflug, dem Krumelpflug, gehaftet hat » [4].

[1] See plate 8, drawings of the plough of Palastine and Tripoli based upon information furneshed to me by some palastinian and libyan students in the Faculty of Arts, Ain Shams University, Cairo.

[2] See plate 8 c, after Baumann.

[3] See plate 8 d, drawn upon photograph 37 in Helfritz (see references under Helfritz).

[4] Winkler, p. 163.

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